



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
MICHIGAN  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL  
LANSING

PAUL PALMER  
CHAIRPERSON  
VENDELLA M. COLLINS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 3, 2018

The Honorable Jim Tedder  
Chairperson- House Tax Policy

R.E. Senate Bill 184 (SB184)

Dear Chairperson Tedder and Members of House Tax Policy Committee:

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC) would like to share its position on Senate Bill 184 (SB 184) as passed by the senate and presented before this committee.

One of the principal barriers for people with disabilities (PWD's) transitioning into fully inclusive community settings is the availability of accessible housing. Currently, in some parts of the state, there are waiting list for accessible housing that exceed 18 months. We believe that SB184 is trying to address this crisis and we thank Senator Gregory and members of the Senate for their work in this area. As such, we support this proposed legislation.

MDDC also believes that this bill addresses major hurdles experienced by PWD's as well as family members by securing accessible and affordable housing, living in a community setting, promote home improvement, and decrease the wait times for accessible housing. This bill will enhance the lives of PWD's and others due to:

- Many PWD's are unable to afford the purchase of an accessible home; a tax incentive would help reduce the overall cost
- Increasing community inclusion and independence for PWD by expanding the number of accessible homes
- Stimulating local economies by the purchase of a new home, or, the hiring of contractors to retrofit existing structures
- The reinvestment into family homes and helping keep families together as they age
- Helping parents and family members to provide housing for a family member with a disability

Once again MDDC greatly appreciates the work being done to address the shortage of accessible homes in Michigan. We respectfully offer our support for Senate Bill 184.

Sincerely,

Paul Palmer  
Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council-Chair